

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-15

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S/S-O:MTANNER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TUNIS IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 045537

EXDIS FOR ATHERTON

FOL TEL SENT ACTION RABAT FROM SECSTATE DTD 25 FEB 197 QUOTE

S E C R E T STATE 045537

EXDIS - FROM THE SECRETARY FOR THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MNUC, MARR, MO

SUBJECT: NPW VISIT TO MOROCCO

REF: RABAT 1046

1. I APPRECIATE YOUR VIEWS CONTAINED REFTTEL CONCERNING CANCELLATION OF THE VISIT OF THE USS BERGALL WHICH WAS SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 27 - MARCH 1, AND APPRECIATE THAT THIS MAY PRESENT DIFFICULTIES IN OUR RELATIONS WITH THE GOM ALTHOUGH, GIVEN OUR OVERALL SUPPORTIVE POSTURE TOWARD MOROCCO, I WOULD HOPE GOM WILL NOT OVERREACT. HOWEVER, I BELIEVE THAT THE CONSIDERATIONS WHICH PROMPTED ME TO MAKE THIS DECISION IN THE FIRST INSTANCE REMAIN VALID. THE DATES FOR THIS PROPOSED VISIT WOULD COINCIDE WITH THE PLANNED WITHDRAWAL BY SPAIN FROM THE SAHARA AND WOULD HAVE

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ENDED SHORTLY BEFORE THE CELEBRATION OF THRONE DAY IN

MOROCCO. IT WOULD BE A WRONG SIGNAL JUST WHEN WE ARE MAKING EVERY EFFORT NOT TO BECOME INVOLVED IN THE SUBSTANCE, AND TO DISCOURAGE INTERNATIONALIZATION, OF THE DISPUTE WHILE GIVING MORAL SUPPORT TO UN AND ARAB MEDIATION EFFORTS. THE VISIT ALSO WOULD HAVE COINCIDED WITH ROY ATHERTON'S VISIT TO MOROCCO AND ALGERIA AND FURTHER FEED SPECULATION THAT HE IS ON A MEDIATION MISSION AND THAT WE

ARE TRYING TO INFLUENCE THE COURSE OF EVENTS IN THIS MANNER.

2. YOU SHOULD, THEREFORE, INFORM THE GOM IMMEDIATELY THAT BECAUSE OF HIGH PRIORITY OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS THE VISIT BY THE USS BERGALL TO SAFI BETWEEN FEBRUARY 27 AND MARCH 1 MUST BE POSTPONED. YOU SHOULD ASSURE THE GOM THAT WE ENVISAGE ONLY A BRIEF POSTPONEMENT AND NOT RPT NOT A CANCELLATION, AND THAT ALTHOUGH WE CANNOT PROVIDE A NEW DATE AT THIS TIME WE HOPE THAT A VISIT BY THE BERGALL OR BY ANOTHER NPW CAN BE RESCHEDULED WITHIN THE NEXT SEVERAL WEEKS. KISSINGER UNQTE KISSINGER

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